

Please cancel claims 6-8 and 11-13 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 14-15 and 17 to read as follows:

14. A rubber compound comprising:

at least one elastomer containing a natural or synthetic rubber, and
at least one high density metal oxide filler in an amount ranging from about 5 to about 80 phr wherein the high density metal oxide filler is bismuth trioxide having a density of greater than 5.7 g/cm^3 .

15. A vehicle tire component made from a rubber compound comprising:

at least one elastomer containing a natural or synthetic rubber, and
at least one high density filler,
wherein the high density filler is selected from the group consisting of phosphorus oxides, $M_n(O)_{2n}$, $M_n(O)_{3n/2}$, $(M_1)_n(M_2)_n(O)_{2n}$, and combinations thereof, where M is a metal selected from Groups IVA, VA, IB, VIB, VIIB and VIIIB metals (with M_1 being different from M_2), O is oxygen, and n is the valence of the metal, and

wherein the high density filler has a density of greater than 5.7 g/cm^3 .

17. A vehicle tire comprising at least one vehicle tire component made from a rubber compound comprising:

at least one elastomer containing a natural or synthetic rubber, and
at least one high density filler,
wherein the high density filler is selected from the group consisting of phosphorus oxides, $M_n(O)_{2n}$, $M_n(O)_{3n/2}$, $(M_1)_n(M_2)_n(O)_{2n}$, and combinations thereof, where M is a metal selected from Groups IVA, VA, IB, VIB, VIIB and VIIIB metals (with M_1 being different from M_2), O is oxygen, and n is the valence of the metal, and

wherein the high density filler has a density of greater than 5.7 g/cm^3 .

Please cancel claims 18 and 20 without prejudice or disclaimer.